THE ITALIAN TANNING INDUSTRY IN 2017

The Italian tanning industry ended 2017 with a **production** of 129 million square meters of finished leather and 11 thousand tons of sole leather, for a total value of just under 5.1 billion €uro. The trend compared to the previous year was mainly positive, with an increase of 1.8% in the total value and 6.1% in volume of sqm (-5.1% for sole leather).

After a two-year period characterized by moderate decreases, **the sector returns to growth**, both on the international markets and on the domestic front, but within a global context of unstable manufacturing demand. The breakdown by **destination sector** shows that the overall positive sign is related to the demand coming from the automotive and leather goods sectors (both in double-digit growth). In very slight increase the footwear sector, which is confirmed the first destination use of Italian leather, albeit with a share now less than 40% of the total production.

Exports of tanned leather, which in 2017 amounted to over 3.8 billion €uro and reached 120 countries, showed an increase of 0.5% in value. Among the main foreign countries of destination, increases for Italian shipments (in value) to the Chinese area, returned to positive territory (+3%) after a difficult two-year period. The export dynamic, which interrupts the slightly negative trend of 2015 and 2016, confirms the strong contribution of foreign markets, which in recent years have exceeded 75% of total value of production. In 1992 the share was 35%.

Growth in all the most important economic indicators has led the Italian tanning industry to further increase its **international leadership**. Italian tanners are in fact the first in the world ranking of the major producers, with a share equal to 20% of the global value of production (65% in the EU), and of the largest exporters, given that 27% of finished leather exported overall in the world has Italian origin.

Data for the **first few months of 2018** seem to have substantially confirmed the trends that characterized the sector in the past year.

Source: UNIC – Concerie Italiane